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Libya

Libya is officially the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab. It's bordering Mediterranean Sea to the north, Libya lies between Egypt to the east, Sudan to the southeast, Chad and Niger to the south, and Algeria and Tunisia to the west. At various times, territory that is now Libya was occupied by Carthage, Rome, Araia, Morocco, Egypt, Spain. It was a part of Ottoman Empire from 1551-1911. Also it was seized by Italy in 1911 and was Italian colony during WWII. In 1951, with UN decision, Libya became independent as the United Kingdom of Libya, with King Idris I as a ruler. However he was kicked out by Muammar al-Qaddafi, who created an anti-Western dictatorship in 1969. Muammar al-Qaddafi became the new leader and over the years he had supported a broad range of militant groups including IRA and Palestine. In 1958, the oils were discovered, which transformed poor agricultural country into one of the world's leading petroleum producers. Libya also an important producer of natural gas. Quaddafi used used vast amount of moneys on social, agricultural, and military development and to create an extensive social welfare system ad help help support the Palestinian guerrilla movement, particularly radical elements]. This petroleum take 95% of export earnings and about 1/3 of national income. As a member of OPEC, Libya has been a leading exponent of limiting production and increasing prices of petroleum. Because of backing up terrorists activities, in 1992 the UN Security Council accused Libya of supporting state terrorism and called for a ban on air flights and weapons sales to it unless suspects (容疑者) in the Lockerbie and another airplane bombing were turned over to the U.S., Britain, and France. So that, Libya was avoided by other country since the bombing of PanAmerican(PanAm). Libya's foreign assets were also frozen and lower oil prices and

economic sanctions arising from the Lockerbie incident hurt the economy in the 1990s. Finally, in April 1999, Libya handed over the suspects in the Lockerbie crash to the UN.

This bombing Panam news had come back these days, because of a suspect who came back to Libya a month ago. The beginning of this news is 2007, when Libya and the British made a prisoner release agreement tied to trade deals. However, British refused to include a Lockerbie bomber, Abdelbeset Ali Mohamed al Megrahi, who was convicted of killing 270 people by bombing Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland. This exclusion of Megrahi made Libyans angry, said Gadhafi, the second-eldest son of Libyan leader. Eventually the agreement was signed later in the year. Gadhafi, who was involved in the negotiations for prisoner release deal accompanied al Megrahi back to Libya last month, after he was freed from a Scottish prison. He was released, because he suffers from terminal prostate cancer, and Gadhafi said his release wasn't part of the trade deals. It was the decision based on compassionate grounds, not because of business deals. He was seriously sick. He has cancer and so that they made decision. The plane that carried him left Scotland on August 21. Earlier this week, a senior Libyan government official who has direct contact with him said that his health had weakened since he was freed last month. He wasn't in the emergency, but in bad shape. Gadhafi said, "Do we think we will be happy to let him die in the jail? Of course not. He is a Libyan citizen." Megrahi made a public appearance last Wednesday at a hospital in Libya, looking weak and unable to engage in what was going on around him. He coughed deeply, whole body shaking, wore surgical-type mask on his face, connected to intravenous drip, and nurse regularly took his pulse. He was in jail for eight and a half years. He is 57 years old and diagnosed with prostate cancer last year. Medical report said the cancer has spread to his lymph nodes and skeletal system and doctor estimated that he had perhaps 3 months to live, so that he came back to his homeland. Families of some of his victims opposed his release, because he had shown their loved ones no comparable compassion, brought to an end a legal process which they hoped would shed more light on the bombing. US also said he shouldn't be freed. However, he received a hero's welcome when he returned to Libya, prompting condemnation

from President Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown. British and Scottish denied allegations he was let go in order to clear the way for British oil deals with Libya since his release.

Even though, he was released this event isn't done yet. Last Saturday, UK newspaper announced that some of Britain's most elite soldiers have been training Libyan forces in counterterrorism and surveillance for the past six months, told UK newspaper this Saturday. The Daily Telegraph said that a contingent of between four and 14 men from the Special Air Service, or SAS, were working with Col Muammar Gaddafi's soldiers in Libya, a country once notorious for its support of terrorism. Training was seen as part of the deal to release Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, but not sure.

Libya had supported terrorism and also had done such bombing, which can't be forgiven, especially for victim's family. However, as a leader of Libya, Gadhafi concerned a lot about his citizens and has great compassion toward those who are dying in the jail. I think that's the great part about Gadhafi as a leader.